

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising a holding member (42) that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate (46) that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece (50), on which the patient bites, and means (58, 60) for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate (46) and said holding member (42), as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system (40) which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken.

2. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein means (58, 60) for detecting the angle of deflection α comprise one or more sensors disposed in said holding member (42).

3. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that wherein means for indicating the angular position of the pivoted plate (46) are provided.

4. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein driving means (15) are provided for vertical adjustment of said holding member (42) and thus to pivot said plate (46).

5. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 4, characterized in that wherein said driving means (15) move said plate

~~(46)~~ automatically into a predefined angular position and stop when said predefined angular position is attained.

6. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, characterized in that wherein said driving means indicate when said predefined angular position of said plate ~~(46)~~ is attained by means of optical and/or acoustic signals.

7. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said pivoted plate ~~(46)~~ is connected to a rail ~~(54)~~ which is disposed in said holding member ~~(42)~~, is capable of being moved upwardly and downwardly and has an opening ~~(58)~~ for the purpose of positioning said rail ~~(54)~~ in said holding member ~~(42)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said bite piece is provided with a replaceable protective sheath.

9. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said bite piece is in the form of a replaceable bite piece ~~(50)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece ~~(50)~~ is of a soft material.

11. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, characterized in that wherein said bite piece ~~(50)~~ is of a substantially radiolucent material.

12. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~ claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece (50) is made of closed-cell ethylene foam.

13. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece (50) occupies an angle β of the dental arch with ranges from 20° and 40° and is, in particular, approximately 30°.

14. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 to 13~~ claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece (50) has, on its upper surface and on its undersurface respectively, a bite groove (64, 66) for the accommodation of the dental arch of the upper and lower jaws of the patient.

15. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece (50) is a unitary piece and is foldable along a folding edge (70).

16. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in ~~any one of claims 9 to 15~~ claim 9, characterized in that wherein said bite piece (50) has, on opposite sides thereof, a wedge-shaped tapered projection (76) and a complementary recess (78) for the accommodation of said projection (76) for releasably fitting said bite piece (50) to said pivoted plate (46).